



Ine and Pieter Stoop,
organizers.

interview with PIETER STOOP

by Talitha Bakker ■ photos by Jan Kan

Earlier this year we had the opportunity to meet and speak to Mr. Pieter Stoop, organizer of the yearly Arabian Horse Weekend in Sint Oedenrode, The Netherlands. Pieter and his family are organizing this show since 2003 and as of 2012 also include an International show on the Sunday as well as an Amateur Cup for the horses that are not yet ready to be shown in the National- and international competitions.

For Pieter Stoop it all started, like many of us, by reading the famous novels of Walter Farley's Black Stallion. When in

the early 60's the stallion Haran (Noran x Susquehanna) of Professor Doctor Moonen arrived at the local riding school, The Arabian Horse was all Pieter had on his mind. He started riding and continued to do so after his marriage to his wife Ine. Then his two children took over. His son Niek was a great dressage rider but stopped when he went to medical school while his daughter Annelieke is still riding every single minute she can spare between her study and part-time job.

The First horse to arrive was a shetland pony and in 2001 the First Purebred Arabian was finally there. Paroeska

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(Paraguay x Knitova) grew up to be the foundation mare for Pieters Lazize Arabians and not only was she Dutch National Champion Z1 Dressage with Pieters daughter Annelieke, but also received a special trophy for her achievements in the dressage sport. The first foal of Paroeska was Amira Lazize (x Poker). Like her mother, also Amira was named National champion in dressage at more than one occasion in both Holland and Belgium. Other foals of Paroeska where all part bred who were all awarded with the Golden Premium by the Part bred studbook. Shaemira Lazize was also named Dutch Junior champion and was named Belgium National Dressage champion at the age of four.

In 2009, Pieter bought the purebred Arabian mare; Ysabella F (Almonito x Yosraya) from Forelocks Arabians and with her he also got engaged with the Arabian Horse shows. Ysabella was named Silver medal champion with the senior mares at the amateur show, received an award for her outstanding performance in dressage, was named many times National dressage champion in both Holland and Belgium and in 2014 she won the A-test during the All Nations Cup Aachen.

Some images of Pieter during Sint Oedenrode Show 2014.





Pieter with his daughter Annelieke on their dressage champion Ysabella F.

In 2003, Pieter was asked by the Dutch Arabian horse registry to organize a show in the south of Holland. A show that over the past years had been organized by Mrs. Smarius. Tough shoes to fill, but a task well trusted to Pieter and his family. Pieter decided to organize the show at the venue of the Pijnhorst Riding school, where he was a board member. Any extra money made with the show, was donated to the riding school to ensure their existence. The first show counted 45 entrees which grew into a massive 80 competitors! A large number for a regional Arabian horse show!

In 2012 Pieter decided that it was time to move things up a bit and helped by the Hennekes and Besseling families, he organized his first International Arabian Horse show. Pieters intention was to organize a complete weekend of Arabian Horses that would also stimulate the Dutch breeders to compete on International level, close to home. With the guidance and help of the Hennekes and Besseling family, Pieter managed to succeed and made the International Arabian Horse weekend to a incredible success! Last year, the show reached a total of 200 competitors!

"As a family, all year long we are busy planning, organizing and perfect ionizing the Arabian Horse weekend in which we would like to retain the familiar character; embracing the Atmosphere and coziness the region of Brabant is known for," Pieter explains. There is a big main arena which allows all horses, but especially the young ones to show their full

potential. There is a large Indoor Arena which can host as many as 100 temporary stalls. Although Stoop and his family are doing most of the work, on the day itself more than 40 workers are responsible to turn the Arabian Horse weekend into the Event of the year!

Pieter also tries to come up with new items to add to the show. Last year he arranged a Concours d'Elegance with the Barsoi Dogs and also Olympic Dressage medal winner Adelinde Cornelissen came to visit the event. A lot of visitors came to see the spectacle and on Sunday there was almost no where left to park! It is great to promote the Arabian Horse to such a wide scale of people! Also this year, some new features are in plan for the Arabian Horse Weekend. A perfectionist as Pieter is, none of which will be revealed until all is ready.

"By organizing an Arabian Horse show, you meet many Arabian horse lovers all over the world, creating new people and establishing new friendships." Pieter tells. "We are very happy with the current program of the show, covering both the performance and the halter horses – both on professional and amature level. We all cordially invite you as a visitor or participant to come and experience our Arabian Horse Weekend on June 20 and 21st in Sint Oedenrode, in the South of The Netherlands!"

- To read more about the Arabian Horse weekend, please visit www.arbianhorseweekend.nl - □